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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Whereas I generally feel that competition and commerce should be left alone and not influenced by governmental interference I am one to go on record to say HELP in the battle against the monopolistic practices that Microsoft has implemented in it s quest to become THE computer software company. Many offenses are already catalogued and rehashed so no need to recount. MY concern here is to point the need for open source support as a basis for other products to be able to compete and yet integrate with Microsoft products. In the HARDWARE field standards allow multiple vendors to have a chance to produce components that interchangealby work in a computer. The ISSUE here should be the same open standards that give XYZ a chance to develop a better software component that can be interchanged with the Microsoft version. If I like Netscape then I should not need a tech degree to replace Internet Explorer with Netscape for a browser. I should be able to have options on the software application vendor even though we are GLAD that Microsoft did standardize Operating Systems with Windows products. No penalties to the computer vendors no pressure on me or others should prevent me from having choice enabled and allowed and that means open source access to code for developers and no exclusiveness of ALL Microsoft or NO software! Please push the accessibilty for all developers and allowance for creative sources. Additionally whatever happens don t allow Microsoft to get off with simple payment to schools that allows more monopolizing practices to be launched on a new generation but rather require payment to CUSTOMERS wronged and the COMPANIES that have been harmed through the MICROSOFT practices! Thank you.